

selection process for Federal judges, explain how decisions are made in both criminal and civil cases, and offer an insider's view on how the Federal court system works.

Under Judge Newman's leadership, the Federal Bar Association's partnership with the United States Courts will give thousands of young people across the country the opportunity to meet with Federal judges and explore the judicial branch of government.

In Dayton, Ohio, alone, where Judge Newman sits, over 1,000 students will participate in the civics program, learning more about the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the separation of powers, the role of the Federal judge, the structure of the Federal court system, and how to become a judge or lawyer themselves.

The Federal Bar Association has also added a civics page to its website to make educational materials available for lawyers and judges who choose to serve as mentors in the program.

In an effort to encourage direct involvement by American government teachers and students alike, the Federal Bar Association, again under Judge Newman's leadership, is holding a national essay contest for middle and high school students on the subject "What Does an Impartial Judicial System Mean to Me?"

In addition to honoring the student essay winners, the Federal Bar Association and United States Courts will also recognize a select group of top-notch civics teachers from across the United States.

As president of the Federal Bar Association and a United States magistrate, Judge Newman has spearheaded this effort, publicly urging the association's 19,000 members to join him in engaging the next generation of attorneys, judges, and legislators.

I commend Judge Newman on his tireless work to connect our young people to the best and brightest in the field of law, and for reemphasizing the critical importance of civics in American society.

DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, distrust in government is at an all-time high, and it is easy to see why. Our Federal debt is approaching \$20 trillion. A child born today in this country will inherit a crushing burden of debt, part of an intergenerational crime without consequence.

Meanwhile, the middle class is being hollowed out, if not disappearing entirely. We have a 7-million-man strong army that simply opted out of the labor force entirely.

Finally, our foreign policy is in crisis. Threats continue to rise abroad as, here at home, we continue to wreak

havoc on our own military through mindless defense sequester. By the way, our veterans still aren't getting the care that they deserve. This is unacceptable.

Despite the fact that Congress, by any metric we might devise, is not doing its basic job, in 10 days the Members of this body will adjourn on a 2-week vacation. And in 10 legislative days, if we don't make some hard choices, the government may shut down, cutting off our constituents from access to programs they depend upon for their livelihood.

So my message is simple. My plea to this body is simple. Let's end the vacation.

In what other job would you grant yourself a 2-week vacation if you failed to do that fundamental job?

I know we need to go back home. I know people want to hear from their constituents. But more than anything else, our constituents sent us here to do our job, to work together to fix problems rather than punting them down the road to the next generation. So, please, let's stay here, let's do our job. That is the very least we owe the American people.

THANKING TEXAS WORLD WAR I VETERANS FOR PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, soldiers from south Texas were instrumental in the United States victory during World War I. With the 100th anniversary of World War I quickly approaching, I would like to take a minute to thank our veterans, especially Texas veterans, for protecting our country.

In 1916, thousands of National Guardsmen were stationed along the Mexican border. When tensions began to calm, 3,500 soldiers were moved to Corpus Christi, where the city prepared a 200-acre site that later became Camp Scurry.

By 1917, the camp was closed after the border remained quiet for nearly a year. Once the United States entered World War I, the camp was reactivated and became a training base for the 4th Field Artillery Regiment and the 5th Engineer Battalion.

Through the draft, nearly 200,000 Texans served in the military during the war, and 450 Texas women worked as nurses. Today, now, we must remember the 5,000 Texans who died during the war, including seven Gold Star women nurses.

Also, a special thank you to the Nueces County Historical Society for hosting the World War I Centennial Commemoration on April 6. Their work helps preserve our south Texas history.

THE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight how impor-

tant our relationship with Israel is, and how our ally in the Middle East is a huge asset to our Nation and the world.

Israel is a beacon of democracy in a sea of turbulence. It is a success story of enterprising spirit and indomitable will. I was fortunate enough to visit Israel in 2011 and saw firsthand the high level of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel militarily, businesswise, technologywise, and socially.

Almost 32 years ago, the U.S. signed its first-ever free trade agreement with Israel, leading to almost \$40 billion in trade annually. Israel makes up more than 40 percent of all investment in the United States from the Middle East and north Africa, and has companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, more than any other country other than the United States and Canada.

The "Start-up Nation" has given the world the USB flash drive, the first PC CPU, voice over IP phone system, and just recently, Intel acquired Israeli driver-assistance company, Mobileye, to help develop better autonomous vehicles.

Israel's drip irrigation technology has helped millions around the world grow crops on land that otherwise would be barren, and Israeli doctors have made medical discoveries improving the lives of millions of Americans and hundreds of millions of folks worldwide.

The U.S. and Israeli militaries also maintain a high level of cooperation and support. Our two nations regularly hold joint exercises and work side by side in developing new technologies, including missile defense systems, weapons technologies, and more.

Situated in an extremely hostile neighborhood, Israelis share a unique understanding of the threats posed by Islamic terror groups. Through cooperation, we are constantly monitoring and defeating new threats to both nations.

I have been heartened to see the renewal in U.S.-Israeli relations since President Trump took office and hope to see them continue to flourish. I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1697, the Israel Anti-Boycott Act; H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act; and H. Res. 218, Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

While many around the world are eager to point fingers and attempt to delegitimize or destroy the State of Israel, it is important—now more than ever—that we stand strong with our allies and the only democracy in the Middle East.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair